(d) whether offers of several bulk purchasers, including consumers; co-operaives in different States for purchase of rice and wheat against specific tender notices of FCI, have been kept pending for finalisation since long but without assigning reasons whatsoever to the eligible bidders;

(e) State-wise details of pending offers from consumers' co-operatives for purchase of rice and wheat from FCI and reasons for keeping them pending;

(f) whether Government contemplate or have already incorporated any mechanism in the selling procedure in order to ensure greater transparency in its conduct and execution of sale by FCI in favour of the higher offer with most favourable terms; and

(g) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The prices for open sale of wheat and rice are fixed by a High Level Committee in FCI on month to month and State-wise basis. The sale is on pre-payment basis subject to availability of stocks. The prices are payable for the net foodgrains prevailing on the date of delivery plus local taxes wherever applicable. Delivery is ex-FCI godowns free on truck basis. The minimum unit of sale for wheat is 5 tonnes in Metropolitan Towns and where FCI depots are having Railway siding and 1 tonne in other revenue districts and sub-divisional headquarters. The minimum unit of sale is 10 bags for rice.

(c) Sale of rice started from January, 1994 and wheat from October, 1993. Quantities of rice and wheat earmarked for sale under open sale scheme and quantities sold are as under:—

(Figures in lakh MT)

Year	Wheat		Rice	
	Quantity earmarked	Quantity Sold	Quantity earmarked	Quantity Sold
1993-94	30·00	28.56	15·00**	0·17
1994-95	45.00	41.47*	..	3.46*

**for the period January, 94 to September, 95.
*upto February, 95 (Provisional)

(d) No, Sir. The sale of rice and wheat in open sale scheme is being done on the basis of the prices fixed in advance on month to month basis and state-wise.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) Does not arise.

Sale of substandard rice by FCI

923. SHRI O. P. KOHLI:

DR. ISHWAR CHANDRA GUPTA:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court pulled up the Food Corporation of

India on 20th February, 1995 for selling 11.683 metric tonnes of rice not fit for human consumption; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government against the officials of the F.C.I. responsible for selling substandard rice and thus playing with the lives of the poor people?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) No, Sir. There was a news item in Hindustan Times dated 21st February, 1995 which appears to be based on the hearing held on 20th February, 1995 in Supreme Court and so the matter is sub-judice. Hon'ble Supreme Court and so the matter is sub-judice. Hon'ble Supreme Court has reserved the judgement and the same is yet to be pronounced.

(b) Does not arise. The sub-standard rice stocks are not issued by Food Corporation of India for Public Distribution System/Human Consumption.

Stocks of wheat and paddy procured by FCI

924. SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total stock of wheat and paddy procured by the FCI and other agencies during the years 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 from each of the States and how much the balance stock of these two commodities lying unutilised year-wise;

(b) how much of the wheat and paddy have been rendered unfit for human consumption out of the above stock of such stock; and

(c) how much wheat and paddy have been exported year-wise and to which countries togetherwith the price fetched by these commodities and what are future targets of export of wheat and paddy?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) A statement indicating State-wise quantities of Wheat and Paddy procured by FCI and other agencies for Central Pool during the years 1992-93 to 1994-95 is enclosed (See below). The stock position of wheat and rice (including paddy in terms of rice) during these years has been as under:—

(In million tonnes)

As on	Rice	Wheat	Total
31·3·93 (P)	9·93	2.74	12·67
31.3.94 (P)	13.54	7.00	20.54
31·1·95 (P)	18.42	11·58	30·00

(P)=Provisional.